

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the President is opening the doors of the White House to host a bipartisan effort on health care reform, and the reason is for hope and optimism. Some think it's the other way around.

It's been a long and tough process, but we always knew that tackling this problem wouldn't be easy. Remember, this has been tried many times over the course of many years. This is the furthest we have reached. Everyone has to have an open mind for this summit. We have to leave divisive partisanship behind. The need is too great. It transcends day-to-day politicking.

Everyone believes we need reform. Everyone recognizes the problems in health care. They are too great to ignore.

Postponing, putting this off, holding it over is just tactics to destroy what we have come forth with. Join us, please, and let's see that we can insure all Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. MARINE SERGEANT JEREMY MCQUEARY

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 18, 2010, Indiana lost one of its brave sons. Marine Sergeant Jeremy McQueary was killed in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan, by an IED while on foot patrol supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant McQueary, a Columbus, Indiana, native, had survived two prior IED attacks while in Afghanistan.

Jeremy, a model Hoosier, enjoyed fishing, four wheeling and giving back to his community by mentoring troubled high school students. He married his high school sweetheart, Rae, and together they had a baby boy, Hadley. He was only a month old when Jeremy shipped out for his third tour, this time to Afghanistan, having already served two previous tours in Iraq.

Eager to join the Marine Corps, Jeremy graduated from high school early and enlisted in 2002. Jeremy's passion for the Corps was so strong that he completed basic training on a broken foot, informing his superiors of his injury only after he had finished basic training. This level of commitment shown by Jeremy to the Corps and our country is an example to us all.

Jeremy McQueary was a devoted father and family man who paid the ultimate sacrifice serving his country. I mourn the loss of Jeremy. I want to thank Jeremy and his family for his service to our country. He and his loved ones are in my prayers.

HIRING ACT

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, America needs jobs, and we need them now. My constituents tell me they want Congress to quit the bickering and partisan posturing and get to working on fixing the economy. Wall Street may be doing well enough for the bankers to reward themselves with big bonuses, but folks on Main Street and on country roads are hurting.

North Carolina's unemployment rate hit its high for 2009 in December, an incredible 11.2 percent. Our top priorities must be: jobs, jobs, jobs. My HIRING Act will provide the incentive for companies to put people to work today, giving employers up to \$7,500 per new worker they hire.

Congress needs to take action on this bill today and put people to work. Passing the HIRING Act would be like CPR for our economy, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting that legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE MAPS AIR MUSEUM

(Mr. BOCCIERI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Military Aviation Preservation Society Air Museum, located in my congressional district at the Akron-Canton Airport. I recently visited this nonprofit museum devoted to preserving our Nation's rich aviation history and the great volunteers who make that museum a reality.

When the Wright Brothers first built their airplane in Ohio, it was an example of American innovation. When U.S. Airborne divisions cleared the way for the Normandy invasion, it was an example of American leadership.

When the Air National Guard recently dispatched to Haiti to help the relief effort, it was an example of American charity. The MAPS Air Museum captures the unique connection between aviation history and our American culture. Our spirit to persevere and succeed parallels our innovative spirit and desire to be leaders in the world and in aviation.

I commend the MAPS Air Museum for its continued inspiration and its dedication to aviation history and the American spirit. Thank you to the soldiers, sailors and airmen who volunteer there every day to keep our history alive.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4626, HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY FAIR COMPETITION ACT

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1098 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1098

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in

the House the bill (H.R. 4626) to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I am pleased to yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. FOXX. All time yielded during consideration of this rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, like all of my colleagues, I have spent a lot of time talking with people in my district about health care and what is happening to them. They were in no way prepared for the influx of incredible rate increases that seemed to come out of nowhere and fall like rain upon them, to the extent that most of them really are not sure they can even stay insured.

Invariably, the conversation turns to health premium increases. I hear about insurers that deny coverage. I heard from a father who had just had a child who was born with a condition that would make him uninsurable for the rest of his life. I listened to someone tell me that her husband's new insurance policy won't cover her because she has preexisting conditions or simply because it doesn't cover her.

But now this Congress is on the brink of some commonsense changes to the health insurance industry that will help to level the playing field a bit between ordinary Americans and the giant corporations that exert such power over our day-to-day lives.

□ 1045

And I say "our" because I personally am caught in the same trap as most of my constituents. I don't have any kind of special coverage because I'm a Member of Congress. I have always been on my husband's policy at home from Eastman Kodak that has covered us since he retired, but it no longer will cover spouses. We are halfway through dropping spouses, and all the benefits that we got as spouses were taken away about 4 years ago. So it's not the worst plan, but it's not the best either.